

## DORMCON MINUTES - OCTOBER 28, 2010

### Attendance:

Dorm	Representative	Absent
Baker	Andy Wu	X
Burton-Conner	Daniel Sauza	
East Campus	Robin Deits	
MacGregor	Meagan Roth	
McCormick	Hannah Rice	
New House	Maxwell Mann	X
Next House	Ellen McIsaac	
Random Hall	Lyla Fischer	X
Senior Haus	Emilio Jasso	X
Simmons Hall	Christina Johnson	
Phoenix Group	Caroline Roque	

### Topics Discussed:

#### 1. Palestine@MIT Funding Request

- Request Details:
  - Palestine@MIT has coordinated a concert (already has planned for a venue, equipment, and the artists) that needs more funding
  - The group playing is a rap group from Palestine
  - The concert will be partially funded by ticket sales and partially by a donation from a friend at BU
  - Tickets are expected to bring in about \$1000
    - \* Likely pricing: \$5 MIT students \$10 Other
    - \* If more money is needed: \$8 MIT students, \$15 other
  - They asked for \$550 from DormCon
  - They also plan to ask for money from Weekends@MIT
- Discussion/Decision:
  - Is this really a DormCon project? Not really, but it sounds cool and isn't a lot of money
  - There was a unanimous vote to approve their funding request, on the condition that Palestine@MIT poster/advertize heavily in each dorm, and use the DormCon logo.
- Follow-up
  - The funding agreement has to be filled out online and signed

- Palestine@MIT will be e-mailed the logo soon

## 2. Secretary Elections

- Alicia was the only candidate, and got elected.

## 3. HSG

- At the next HSG meeting, the question “Which dorms are going to close down this summer?” will be discussed.
- Comments about last summer:
  - East Campus
    - \* The house manager wasn’t pleased with the timing and organization of people moving into EC for the summer
    - \* There was not enough time to prepare rooms before everyone from the regular term had moved out
    - \* Seniors can’t leave, but summer residents are expected to move into their old rooms
    - \* EC really wants to stay open over the summer, especially because residents NEED to be around for (and before) Rush, so people must be living there at the end of the summer.
  - Senior house also had trouble
    - \* Student’s property that was put in storage was damaged, but they were refunded
  - All-Female living group at NW35 had a single male GRT
  - Burton-Conner got renovations done over the summer because the dorm was closed, which was a good thing.
- HSG is looking to develop and grow summer conference space. However, people coming to early conferences can also run into problems with residents that have not yet moved out.
- They want to keep at least 1 building from each price tier open.

## 4. Dining Survey

- Quick Edits
  - Question 11: add Phoenix Group to list of options
  - Need to figure out which time blocks to put into the table where it says “whatever times you need to know”
  - The survey is currently labeled as a HDAG survey. If other groups are involved, it should be labeled as a joint survey
- 1st half of survey: opinion/preferences
  - The goal of the 1st half of the survey is to get a more comprehensive view of people’s opinions about dining
  - It can also provide real information on student opinion of specific different parts of the plan as opposed to past surveys that have asked more “Dining: Yes or No?” type questions
  - This part is similar to many other dining surveys that have been sent out.

- The phrasing of some questions might be misleading. Ex. “Do you want hot breakfast” Many people might answer yes to that question while they would not answer yes to the question, “Would you want hot breakfast if you had to pay more for it?” or “Is eating a hot breakfast realistic given your schedule?”
- 2nd half of survey: “quiz” on knowledge of the proposed plan
  - There is a lot of misinformation about dining, and we could gain insight about that from survey
  - Is this part condescending? It is important to phrase the questions so that it doesn’t insult readers.
  - Is it necessary?
    - \* If the survey tells us “we don’t understand the dining plan” then we’ll need to educate the student body about the plan
    - \* If the survey says, “we do understand the dining plan”, this part of the survey was a waste.
    - \* Regardless of the results, DormCon/HDAG should educate the students about the proposed dining plan [This is already planned –Fact sheets are in the process of being made]
- Questions:
  - Is UA planning a survey? No. Individual senators, however, are talking about it
  - Can it be put off until people are less worked up about the issue? Not really, because next meeting is in 2 weeks, and it will take too long.
  - What could realistically be accomplished if there are interesting results to the survey?
    - \* If the survey says that students don’t want dining at all, that’s probably not going to do anything, because HDAG will go on with their plans regardless
    - \* If the survey can lead to helpful suggestions for improving individual aspects of the proposed dining plan, then HDAG would be much more open to tweaking some things based on student feedback.
- Goal of the survey?
  - We want a joint survey so that HDAG is on board and so that they will respect the responses
  - Because of the nature of the RFP process, if we don’t move forward soon there will be no dining next year
  - Some freshmen feel as though they were not included in the dining decision process, and a survey this year could help appease them to some extent
- Problems with putting out a survey
  - People get fatigued with too many surveys or surveys that are too long, especially since there have already been multiple surveys about dining, which could skew results or piss people off
  - If people don’t take the survey seriously (or if one type of person or many people from one dorm take the survey in very disproportionate ratios) and

the results are not actually representative of student opinion, that could be dangerous. DormCon doesn't want to put forth an opinion that isn't actually how the majority feels.

- Will DormCon get behind the results of this survey regardless of the results? If not, then we shouldn't do the survey
- This survey is maybe only appropriate for dining dorms, and if so, its not a DormCon issue
- Conclusion
  - This survey will not be a DormCon survey